

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to express gratitude to Examiners Tran and Swerdlow and Supervisory Patent Examiner Isen for the courtesy extended in conducting Examiner Interviews with Applicant's attorney, Richard J. Katz. During these interviews, claim 1 was discussed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,542,604 to Blon et al. This amendment is being filed to expand upon the substance of the Examiner Interviews, while addressing each specific rejection of the claims.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 9-11.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,604 to Blon et al. ("Blon").

The Examiner contends that Blon discloses a method for correcting for an echo signal component in a telecommunications device comprising the steps of sampling a transmitted signal across a sampling resistor, subtracting the sampled signal (through a subtractor) from a line signal to obtain a reconstructed received signal, sampling the transmitted signal across a first RC network echo compensation circuit to obtain a first echo compensation signal, where the first echo compensation signal and the reconstructed received signal are subtracted by providing them to a

first circuit node. The Examiner contends that the first circuit node is pins HYB3 and HYB4 of Blon Figure 1.

During an Examiner Interview, the Examiner stated that a node can have a broad definition which encompasses a location in a circuit where a process happens, *i.e.*, that a node can be more than just a single physical point. The Examiner contends that the AGC element disclosed in Blon functions as a subtractor and meets this broader definition of “node.”

Amended claim 1 now recites the step of “subtracting the first echo compensation signal from the reconstructed received signal to produce a first compensated received signal by combining the first echo compensation signal and the reconstructed received signal at a first circuit junction point common to at least two circuit branches.” (Emphasis added.) In contrast, Blon discloses feeding tip and ring received signals (lines RTIP and RRING) and tip and ring replica echo signals (lines RRTIP and RRRING) to separate inputs of an AGC element that functions as a subtractor, where they are subtracted to provide the far end signal. (Blon, column 3, lines 62-67.) Providing these signals to different inputs of a subtractor is not the same as combining them at “a first circuit junction point common to at least two circuit branches” as now recited in claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Blon does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1. Therefore, Blon does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 12 depend from claim 1, and Applicant submits that claims 2-4 and 12 are patentable over Blon for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Amended claim 5 now recites a first circuit branch and a second circuit branch connected “such that a reconstructed received signal and an echo compensation signal are combined and coupled at the receiver input junction point common to at least two circuit branches.” Applicant

submits that amended claim 5 distinguishes over Blon for at least the same reasons presented above for claim 1. Blon does not disclose each and every element of claim 5 and, thus, does not anticipate claim 5. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5, and Applicant submits that claims 6-8 are patentable over Blon for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Applicant requests withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection.

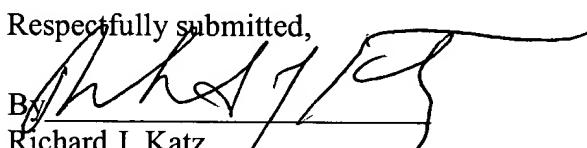
CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated January 29, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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